

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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KENNETH THOMAS,

Petitioner,

v.

D. W. NEVEN, et al.,

Respondents.

Case No. 3:15-cv-00071-MMD-WGC

ORDER

This action is a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 by a Nevada state prisoner.

Petitioner has filed a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (Dkt. no. 1.) Based on the information regarding petitioner's financial status, the motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted.

Petitioner has filed a motion for the appointment of counsel. (Dkt. no. 1-3.) Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(2)(B), the district court has discretion to appoint counsel when it determines that the "interests of justice" require representation in a habeas corpus case. Petitioner has no constitutional right to appointed counsel in a federal habeas corpus proceeding. *Pennsylvania v. Finley*, 481 U.S. 551, 555 (1987); *Bonin v. Vasquez*, 999 F.2d 425, 428 (9th Cir. 1993). The decision to appoint counsel is within the Court's discretion. *Chaney v. Lewis*, 801 F.2d 1191, 1196 (9th Cir. 1986), *cert. denied*, 481 U.S. 1023 (1987); *Bashor v. Risley*, 730 F.2d 1228, 1234 (9th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 838 (1984). However, counsel must be appointed if the complexities of the case are such that denial of counsel would amount to a denial of due process.

1 See *Chaney*, 801 F.2d at 1196; see also *Hawkins v. Bennett*, 423 F.2d 948 (8th Cir.  
2 1970). The federal habeas petition submitted in this action includes many claims, the  
3 contents of which suggest that it may be a relatively complex action. In the underlying  
4 state criminal case, petitioner was convicted of murder and was sentenced to  
5 imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole. The Court grants petitioner's  
6 motion for the appointment of counsel.

7 Therefore, the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada (FPD) shall be  
8 appointed to represent petitioner. If the FPD is unable to represent petitioner, due to a  
9 conflict of interest or other reason, then alternate counsel for petitioner shall be located,  
10 and the Court will enter a separate order appointing such alternate counsel. In either  
11 case, counsel will represent petitioner in all future federal proceedings relating to this  
12 matter (including subsequent actions) and appeals therefrom, unless allowed to  
13 withdraw.

14 It is therefore ordered that petitioner's motion to proceed in *forma pauperis* (dkt.  
15 no. 1) is granted.

16 It is further ordered that petitioner's motion for the appointment of counsel (dkt.  
17 no. 1-3) is granted. The Federal Public Defender is appointed to represent petitioner.

18 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court shall electronically serve the Federal  
19 Public Defender for the District of Nevada (FPD) a copy of this order, together with a  
20 copy of the petition for writ of habeas corpus (dkt. no. 1-1) and supplement (dkt. no. 1-  
21 2). The FPD shall have thirty (30) days from the date of entry of this order to undertake  
22 direct representation of petitioner or to indicate to the Court its inability to represent  
23 petitioner in these proceedings.

24 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court shall add Attorney General Adam Paul  
25 Laxalt to the CM/ECF docket sheet and serve respondents with a copy of this order.  
26 Respondents' counsel shall enter a notice of appearance herein within ten (10) days of  
27 entry of this order.

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1 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court shall send a copy of this order to the  
2 CJA Coordinator.

3 It is further ordered that, after counsel has appeared for petitioner in this case,  
4 the Court will issue a scheduling order, which will, among other things, set a deadline  
5 for the filing of a first amended petition.

6 DATED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miranda M. Du', is written over a horizontal line.

MIRANDA M. DU  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE